

NEATA Meeting Lillehammer Sept. 14-15, 2024

Present: Ege, Sanna, Aukse, Vita, Daina, Hörður, Ragnhild and Sofia. Noomi joined online later in the day.

President Sofia, opened the meeting.

1. Representatives observed a moment of silence for the late Anders Hind who was a great supporter of NEATA.
2. First item on the agenda is selecting a new General Secretary. Proposals for either a General Secretary from Norway or Iceland. Both representatives need to consult their boards. Norway will give an answer within about a week.
3. Sofia gave thanks to NATF for hosting our meeting with a little Moomin gift.
4. Discussion about future collaboration ideas for NEATA:
 1. Greenland and Åland as new members. They are welcome if they so choose.
 2. Collaboration outside our region. Plans on having informal discussions about collaboration with CEC and more. Plan a meeting with CEC in Monaco to discuss possibilities.
 3. Funding options discussed. Discussion will be revisited during an online meeting later this year.
 4. Meeting of members of the respective countries' board members might be beneficial for increasing understanding of NEATA's purpose and activities among the respective countries.
 5. Rotating NEATA meeting hosts. Monaco 2025, Estonia 2026 etc.
5. Plan for next years: Dina told us about a big festival in Latvia that is held every 5 years and will next take place in 2029. 52 performances over 3-4 days. We could possibly hold a NEATA meeting in connection with the festival. Preliminary plan for annual NEATA meetings is as follows: Monaco 2025, Estonia 2026, 2028 Faroe Islands and in 2029 either Monaco or Latvia.

6. Plan to have an online meeting later this year involving the new General Secretary. Look into possibilities for funding projects and meetings going forward.
7. **World Theatre Day.** A video comprised of short recordings from each country from an actual stage performance. No more than 5-8 seconds and can be a monologue or a dialogue between more actors. Deadline is **Jan. 15.** Ragnhild will manage the editing of the video. Videos should be recorded in landscape mode and sent directly to Ragnhild along with a translation of the spoken text.
8. **Online Workshops.** Discussion about how it went last time. Try to plan it for spring in collaboration with AITA/IATA. A nominal 5 EUR fee for each course, 10 EUR for attending all. Sofia will talk with the board of AITA/IATA - regarding the collaboration.
9. Aukse presented **NEATA Youth Theatres Festival** in Kretinga, Lithuania **May 8-12, 2025.** Kretinga is Lithuania Youth Capital 2025. The deadline for applying to the Neata youth theatre festival in Lithuania is **before the new year.** They will host **10 people** from each country. Within the group should be both the youth and a welfare leader. They will not support travelcosts, but food and stay when you get to Lithuania. The youth should be between **14-17 years old**, but there can be exceptions within the group. Performance should be **max 60 min** and played in native language.

Lithuania is also inviting the representatives and offering to host NEATA youth. These are not included in the 10 people per country, but extra. NEATA Youth needs to give an answer within this month to Aukse.
10. Estonia has confirmed they are hosting the **NEATA Festival** in summer of 2026.
11. Sanna and Ragnhild presented a collaboration between Finland and Norway for **special needs theatre groups network.** A group from Finland will visit Norway in October to start the project.
12. Sofia presented the **AITA/IATA Festival in Monaco** next year.. Application **deadline is Oct. 10.** Whole festival has been shortened to 7 days from 10 days previously but groups can now attend the whole festival instead of just a part of it. Performances up to 1 hour long. NEATA meeting will be held as well as a regional meeting. AITA/IATA is growing as there have been many new members from around the world.
13. **AITA/IATA International Children's festival in Lingen** will be held in June-July 2025. **Deadline for application is 1.11.2024.**

The festival will be held in Belgium in 2026.

14. **NEATA Youth.** Several new representatives are needed. NEATA Youth are missing representation from Sweden, Iceland and Latvia. Denmark and Norway should most likely look into changing their representation due to them passing age 25. NEATA Youth will meet soon to plan the future. Sofia will inform them of Lithuania's offer to host them next summer.
15. A round of short and longer reports from each country present at the meeting mostly about finances and organizational structures. A good discussion about differences and similarities in organizational structures.
16. A visit by the board of NATF. Presentations of the NEATA members end the history and structure of NEATA. Norway is starting an umbrella organization for all amateur theatre organizations in Norway.
17. Daina invited us to contact her regarding possibilities of taking part in Latvian theatre festivals. Aukse talked about the 100 year anniversary of the Lithuanian Song Festival which was a huge cultural event in Lithuania this summer involving among others 94 theatres.

Meeting closed Sunday Sept. 15 at noon.

Minutes by Hörður (edited by Sofia)